

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

November 26, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

We write to request information regarding why Minnesota transportation projects did not receive any funding through the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program this year. To provide clarity to the many competitive applicants from our state, we ask that DOT provide insight into the grant selection process.

Since the inception of the Transportation Investment Generating Economy Recovery (TIGER) program in 2010, discretionary federal transportation funding from TIGER, and now BUILD, has played an integral role in improving the safety of Minnesota's transportation infrastructure, including funding for rebuilding bridges, roads, and highway interchanges. Over the years, the state of Minnesota, its counties, and cities have submitted competitive grant applications to address critical transportation needs in the state, and have been awarded these funds.

While DOT awarded \$900 million in BUILD grants this fiscal year, Minnesota did not receive any funding while other states received up to three grants. As a result, Minnesota communities were deprived of a key opportunity to improve the safety and efficiency of transportation networks across our state as well as the economic benefits of direct investments in reliable infrastructure.

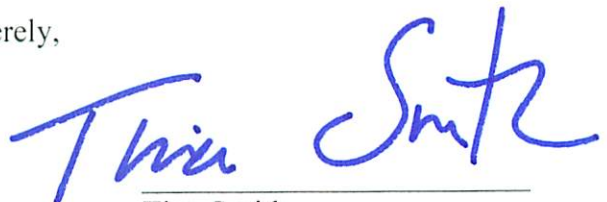
We respectfully request that you share with us the determination behind the merits and compared benefits of projects against Minnesota applications. As you consider award funding for next year's BUILD grant program, we urge you to provide clarity to applicants about their projects to improve Minnesota's transportation infrastructure.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Jim Hagedorn
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Dean Phillips
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress